

Appl. No. 10/687,190
Amdt. dated April 25, 2005
Reply to Office action of February 23, 2005

Docket No. 58085-010204

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Hartman for extending the courtesy of an interview to Applicants' representative, Charles Berman, on April 6, 2005.

Claims 1, 5 and 6 have been amended to include "evacuation from disaster area" as suggested by the Examiner during the interview. The examiner has kindly acknowledged that "[t]hese changes are consistent with subject matter the examiner has already deemed as allowable." Applicants submit that claim 1-6 are now condition for allowance.

Formal reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated February 23, 2005 is respectfully requested.

Priority

Examiner states that allowed claims 7-9 do not receive the benefit of an earlier filed applications 09/617,721 (filed 07/17/2000) or 6,173,209 (filed 08/10/1999) because evacuation from disaster areas was not disclosed in any of those applications.

However, the parent application 09/617,721 discloses "pedestrian traffic can be directed away from certain areas during times when crowding is severe." Page 23, Ln 34-35. Accordingly, applicants submit that evacuation from disaster areas is well supported by the parent application 09/617,72.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3 and 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Dombroski et al, U.S. Patent Application No. U.S. 2002/0023463 A1. The Examiner has rejected Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dombroski et al. in further view of Official Notice.

As acknowledged by the Examiner, Dombroski is not concerned with evacuation from a disaster area. Independent Claims 1, 5 and 6 have been amended to include a disaster area.

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Further, Claims 2, 3, and 4 depend from Claim 1. Accordingly, applicants submit that Claims 1-6 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Dombroski et al. and respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.


Conclusion

Applicants have complied with all requirements made in the above referenced communication. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should matters remain, which the Examiner believes could be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the Applicants' undersigned agent.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s), or to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account Number 50-2638. Please ensure that Attorney Docket Number 58085-010204 is referred to when charging any payments or credits for this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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